



# Town of Athabasca

Gateway to the Great New North

February 2025 Town News and Views Volume 20, Issue 1

*The Town of Athabasca respectfully acknowledges that we are meeting on Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 territory, home to the First People living on Turtle Island, and we honour all of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who have lived, traveled, and gathered on these lands for thousands of years. We commit to sharing a path forward of respect, learning, and opportunity.*

## Town of Athabasca 2025 Municipal Election

**Nominations Open: Jan. 1, until Sept. 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**

Municipal Elections are conducted every four years, under the provision of the Local Authorities Election Act. The Town of Athabasca's next general election is scheduled to take place Monday, October 20, 2025. Town residents will elect one Mayor and six Councillors to serve a four-year term.

This article is a summary of election details. Complete details, including a Nomination Checklist and a link to the [2025 Municipal Election Candidate Information Package](#), can be found on the [2025 Municipal Election page](#) of the Town website.

### Nominator Eligibility

For a candidate's nomination to be valid, the candidate must complete the prescribed Nomination Paper and have five eligible voters sign the Nomination Paper. The candidate is encouraged to seek more than five in case a nominator becomes disqualified.

Nominators must be:

- (a) eligible to vote in this election, and
- (b) residents of the Town of Athabasca on the date they signed the form

### Candidate Eligibility

Candidates must be:

- (a) eligible to vote in this election,
- (b) a resident of the Town of Athabasca for the six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day, and
- (c) not otherwise ineligible or disqualified.

A person is **not eligible** to be nominated for more than one office.

**Please note:** It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the laws governing elections and to obtain any necessary legal advice. The [Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\)](#) and the [Municipal Government Act \(MGA\)](#) can be accessed through the Alberta King's Printer. Additional information is available on-line by visiting the [Alberta Municipal Affairs website](#).

**Election Day:** October 20th, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Voting Station** will be located at:

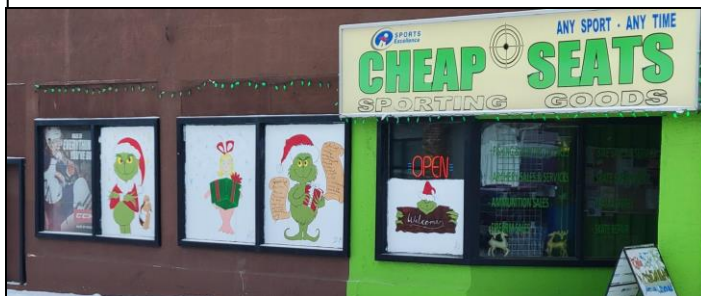
Town of Athabasca, 4705 – 49 Ave., Athabasca, AB

For more information please contact: Jeff Dalley, Returning Officer,  
Town of Athabasca, 780-675-2063 | Email: [finance@athabasca.ca](mailto:finance@athabasca.ca)

## Decorating Contest Winners



Congratulations to winners of the 2024 Town **Christmas Decorating Contest!** Randy Skarpinsky for Residential (above), and Cheap Seats Sporting Goods for Non-Residential (below). Many thanks to everybody!



## Dr. Josephine M. Brown Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is an award of excellence in honour of Dr. Josephine M. Brown, a long-time resident of Athabasca and her many years of service, both as a physician and a Town Councillor. This scholarship is an annual award acknowledging academic excellence and achievement. One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is awarded per calendar year.

The scholarship is open to all current Grade 12 students or past graduates that attended Edwin Parr Composite High School in Athabasca and intend to continue their post-secondary education in the medical field at an accredited two or four-year college or university, vocational school, or technical training program.

Application forms and further details about the [Dr. Josephine M. Brown Memorial Scholarship](#) are available on the Town website. Deadline for submissions is May 1 of the current year.

See also: 'Community Grants' and 'Casino Fundraisers', Page 2



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on Facebook

[www.athabasca.ca](http://www.athabasca.ca)

4705 - 49 Avenue, Athabasca, AB T9S 1B7  
Tel: 780-675-2063 – Fax: 780-675-4242  
E-mail: [town@athabasca.ca](mailto:town@athabasca.ca)

## Community Grants Available

Did you know that grant funding for community projects is available from the Town of Athabasca? The fund is limited, with a total of \$3,250.00 being allocated to the 2025 budget. Funding is based on a maximum grant of \$500 per individual or group.

Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee. Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants until the fund limit has been reached. Eligible applicants may apply for funding in advance of, or up to thirty days after the event, provided the application is received within the same calendar year.

The purpose of the [Town of Athabasca Community Grant](#) is to provide financial assistance to individuals, groups, and not-for-profit organizations that partake in events that benefit the community, for example, sports and cultural activities. Eligible applicants are limited to one community grant per calendar year. Recipients will be asked to provide a report after the event, as we would like to share the successes and thank our community groups for their contributions to the wellbeing of residents and visitors! Application forms are available on the Town website.

## Casino Fundraisers: A Collaboration

Community groups throughout Alberta are taking advantage of a unique fundraising opportunity by providing volunteer labour at a casino in their region. Interested groups must apply to [Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis \(AGLC\)](#) for a casino license.

Some groups find it challenging to round up the required number of volunteers, and this creates an opportunity for local groups to help each other by sharing their volunteer labour base. Funds raised through this effort can be applied towards community enhancement projects and building community capacity.

## Eco-Friendly, Sustainable Landscaping

Planting drought tolerant and fire-resistant plants creates an eco-friendly and sustainable landscape for your home. There are many benefits to planting drought tolerant plants: water conservation, cost and time savings, extending infrastructure lifespans, reducing chemical needs, and decreasing energy use and pollution.

The following are examples of drought tolerant perennials, shrubs, and trees that are well suited for Alberta's climate:

### Trees and Shrubs

- Ash
- Cherry Prinsepia
- Golden Flowering Currant
- Hackberry
- Honeysuckle
- Juniper
- Shrubby Potentilla

### Perennials

- Blanket Flower
- Daylily
- Hens and Chicks
- Potentilla
- Sea Holly
- Snow-in-the-Summer
- Stonecrop

When selecting plants, it is also important to *avoid invasive species* and eliminate them from your garden. View the [Alberta Invasive Species Council's "Take Action" page](#) for great info and recommendations. View the ["Grow Me Instead" brochure](#) directly.

Choosing fire-resistant plants and materials can beautify your home and help reduce your wildfire risk. Please see the FireSmart resources below for guidance on fire-resistant landscaping:

- [FireSmart Guide to Landscaping](#)
- [FireSmart Wildfire Resilience Best Practice Checklist](#)

## Rural Food Production with Passive Solar Greenhouses

[Athabasca Grown](#) is the working name for the Small Community Opportunity Program project "*Rural Food Production with Passive Solar Greenhouses*", being co-led by Dr. Mike Gismondi and Athabasca University (AU) researcher Cara Shan. The project has the support of the Town of Athabasca, AU Architecture professor Veronica Madonna, AU student research assistants, and a team of Alberta-based food and agriculture consultants and communication professionals.

The project will conduct a comprehensive feasibility assessment for a passive solar greenhouse business for food production in Athabasca, which will become a resource available to rural communities across the province. The assessment will be created alongside [workshops](#) that will share knowledge and skills related to small-scale agriculture innovation and build capacity to execute greenhouse and indoor farming business strategies. The workshops will include expert-led presentations and interactive discussions.

"As part of this study, we're also conducting a series of interviews with local retailers, residents, and food service providers to assess the current state of the regional food system, people's perceptions of and interactions with local food, and the possible challenges and opportunities that may be encountered by a new greenhouse business," notes researcher Cara.

The passive solar greenhouse concept could extend Northern Alberta's growing seasons for local food production, even into the winter.

The Athabasca Grown research team will examine the overall benefits, including regenerative production, agrotourism, job creation, community economic development, and more.

The workshop series will explore these subjects further, facilitated by industry experts and practitioners, to engage the community and build local capacity. The workshops are funded through the Government of Alberta's [Small Community Opportunity Program](#). Community Futures Tawatinaw, Athabasca District Agricultural Society, Athabasca University RAIC Centre for Architecture, Athabasca Science Outreach, and Athabasca County Economic Development are co-hosting the events.

All parties interested in rural food production, whether as a consumer, a producer, or for commercial reasons, are encouraged to check the [Athabasca Grown website](#) for more details. Check out the info and dates for the [workshop series](#), as well. You can follow [Athabasca Grown on Facebook](#) for info and updates.

## Free Seniors' Day at Multiplex

Here is a great opportunity for seniors in the community! Every Thursday, 6:00 to 11:30 a.m., seniors 65-plus will receive free access to drop-in activities at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex. Seniors can also come and socialize while enjoying fresh brewed coffee and tea, complementary of The Time Out Concession.

Programs available at the Multiplex include: Shinny, Pickleball, Low Intensity Aquafit, Walking Group, Board Games, Crib, Shuffleboard, Curling, Lane Swim, Public Swim, Gym access, and more. Activities may be subject to change. Please contact the [Athabasca Regional Multiplex](#) for current activity schedules and availability: 780-675-2967